

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 259751

63

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PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OIC-02 /100 R

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NEA - MR. SOBER

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L - MR. LEIGH (SUBSTANCE)

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TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 259751

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UN, PFOR, ICJ

SUBJECT: ICJ ELECTIONS

REF: USUN 5432

1. WE HAVE MADE PRELIMINARY EVALUATION OF CANDIDATES FOR
UPCOMING VACANCIES ON ICJ. OUR INITIAL CONCLUSIONS ARE
AS FOLLOWS, SUBJECT TO RECONSIDERATION BY DEPT IF REGIONAL
GROUPS DECIDE TO SUPPORT A SINGLE CANDIDATE.

2. WE SUPPORT REELECTION OF LACHS (POLAND) AND EXPECT NO
OPPOSITION TO HIS CANDIDACY. WE SUPPORT HAMBRO (NORWAY)
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PAGE 02 STATE 259751

AMONG EUROPEAN CANDIDATES IN VIEW OF HAMBRO'S EMINENCE,

PARTICULARLY BECAUSE WE BELIEVE HE IS MORE LIKELY THAN OTHER EUROPEAN NOMINEES TO RETAIN THE SEAT FOR EUROPE. WE REGARD ALL OTHER EUROPEAN CANDIDATES, AND ESPECIALLY PETREN, AS WELL QUALIFIED, AND WOULD GLADLY SUPPORT PETREN OR ANOTHER CANDIDATE THAN HAMBRO IF THE WEOS UNITE BEHIND ANOTHER. IF ASKED TO PARTICIPATE IN "SECRET STRAW VOTE" AS DESCRIBED IN REFTTEL, YOU SHOULD VOTE FOR HAMBRO AND PETREN. WE SUPPORT ODA (JAPAN), AN EXPERIENCED AND COMPETENT INTERNATIONAL LAWYER, AS REPLACEMENT FOR BENGZON (PHILIPPINES). WE ALSO SUPPORT ELIAS (NIGERIA) AS AN OUTSTANDING AFRICAN NOMINEE. (WE RECOGNIZE ONYEAMA'S

EXCELLENT RECORD ON ICJ AND BELIEVE HE MERITS REELECTION, BUT IN VIEW OF NIGERIA'S NOMINATION OF ELIAS WE ASSUME ONYEAMA'S CANDIDACY IS NOT VIABLE. WOULD APPRECIATE MISSION'S VIEWS.)

3. FINALLY, WE SEE NO SATISFACTORY CHOICE AMONG CANDIDATES FOR SEAT OF AMMOUN (LEBANON) AND WOULD WELCOME ANY NEW NOMINATION OF COMPETENT AND IMPARTIAL JURIST. IF NO NEW CANDIDATE MATERIALIZES, WE WOULD PREFER YASSEEN (IRAQ) TO EITHER TABIBI (AFGHANISTAN) OR TARAZI (SYRIA); HOWEVER, IRAQ HAS CIRCULATED NOTE PURPORTING TO WITHDRAW YASSEEN CANDIDACY, WHICH WILL PROBABLY COMPEL HIS WITHDRAWAL. IN THAT EVENT, WE WOULD UNHAPPILY PREFER TABIBI TO TARAZI, WHOM WE CONSIDER THE WORST CANDIDATE OF THE LOT FROM USG AND ICJ VIEWPOINT. IN VIEW OF THIS UNSATISFACTORY SITUATION, WE MAY WISH TO CONSIDER INITIALLY VOTING FOR ONLY FOUR CANDIDATES (EXCLUDING THE CANDIDATES FOR THE AMMOUN SEAT) TO IMPROVE CHANCES FOR THOSE WE FAVOR. WE WOULD APPRECIATE MISSION'S VIEWS ON THE TACTICAL DESIRABILITY OF SUCH A PROCEDURE.

4. MISSION MAY USE ABOVE AS BACKGROUND IN PRIVATE DISCUSSIONS WITH OTHER DELS. MISSION SHOULD NOT INDICATE THAT U.S. HAS COME TO ANY DECISIONS ON REGIONAL CANDIDATES AT THIS TIME. IF SYRIANS ASK FOR SUPPORT OF TARAZI CANDIDACY, YOU SHOULD OFFER NO ENCOURAGEMENT AND SHOULD INDICATE ONLY THAT WE WILL OF COURSE GIVE TARAZI DUE CONSIDERATION. KISSINGER
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PAGE 03 STATE 259751

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